Remarks

Amendments to the Claims

In an effort to advance prosecution, independent claims 60, 61 and 66 are amended to recite the subject matter of canceled dependent claims 69, 72, 73, 75 and 76. None of the amendments adds new matter.

Discussion

The courtesy extended by the Examiner at the interview of November 13, 2006 is gratefully acknowledged.

The claims as amended above were the topic of the interview. It was agreed that limiting the claims to the sequence of Figure 4, as accomplished by this amendment, was sufficient to satisfy both enablement and description requirements.

At the interview, the Examiner indicated that the newly submitted claims would be allowable. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

/Lisa M. Hemmendinger/

Dated: January 2, 2007 By: _____

Lisa M. Hemmendinger
Reg. No. 42,653

Customer No. 22907

1-59. (canceled)

60. (previously presented) In an immunoassay to detect the presence of antibodies to a human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in a human sample comprising contacting said sample with an envelope (*env*) antigen comprising an amino acid sequence from the *env* domain of said HIV and determining whether antibodies are bound to said *env* antigen, the improvement comprising employing as said *env* antigen a synthetic polypeptide.

61. (previously presented) A method of detecting antibodies to a human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in a human sample comprising:

a) providing a solid support having bound thereto a synthetic polypeptide comprising an envelope *env* antigen comprising an immunogenic amino acid sequence of the *env* domain of HIV, wherein said antigen is a synthetic polypeptide;

b) contacting said solid support with said human sample to provide a sample-contacted support;

c) washing said sample-contacted support to provide a washed support; and

d) determining whether human antibodies are bound to said washed support.

62. (previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein said human sample comprises serum.

63. (previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein said human sample comprises serum.

64. (previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein step (d) comprises contacting said washed support with labeled antibodies to human Ig and the specific binding of said labeled

antibodies to said washed support is measured.

65. (previously presented) The method of claim 64 wherein said labeled antibodies bound to said washed support are measured by an enzyme label.

66. (previously presented) An article of manufacture adapted for use in an immunoassay for antibodies to a human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) comprising a solid support having bound thereto a synthetic polypeptide comprising at least a portion of an envelope (*env*) antigen comprising an immunogenic amino acid sequence of the *env* domain of said HIV, wherein said antigen is a synthetic polypeptide.

67. (previously presented) A polypeptide comprising an immunogenic synthetic polypeptide having an immunogenic amino acid sequence from the *env* domain of a human immunodeficiency virus.

68. (previously presented) The immunoassay of claim 60 or 61 wherein said antigen contains at least 15 amino acid residues.

69. (previously presented) The immunoassay of claim 68 wherein said antigen has a sequence as shown in Figure 4.

70. (previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 67 wherein said antigen has a sequence as shown in Figure 4.

71. (previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein said antigen contains at least 15 amino acid residues.

72. (previously presented) The method of claim 71 wherein said antigen has a sequence as shown in Figure 4.

73. (previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein said antigen has a sequence as

shown in Figure 4.

74. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 66 wherein said antigen contains at least 15 amino acid residues.

75. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 74 wherein said antigen has a sequence as shown in Figure 4.

76. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 66 wherein said antigen has a sequence as shown in Figure 4.